

# Working in Child Care as an Early Intervention Provider

## During Visits

- Follow the visitor policies of the program.
- Take time to work with the administrator.
- Greet child care providers and children.
- Share any plans for your visit.
- Embed early intervention strategies within program materials, daily routines and peer interactions.
- Ask the childcare provider about the success of suggested strategies.
- Model early intervention techniques and discuss how these techniques support the child's functional outcomes.
- Allow time for questions from the child care provider.
- Focus on supporting the child care provider through coaching strategies.

### **Child care settings are ideal for early intervention services.**

They have regular routines, play-based and child-centered activities, and opportunities for peer interaction. Additionally, many programs run all day and year-round providing continuity of care. Providing quality, coordinated care between child care and early intervention (EI) can improve child and family outcomes.

### **If the family requests services in the child care setting, it is important to establish a respectful, collaborative relationship with the child care provider (CCP).**

To be effective and respectful, take time to learn about the child care program, including the program philosophy, schedule, routines, as well as staff roles and responsibilities. In turn, share information about the EI process, your role, what to expect during and EI visit, and the program's role in EI. With the family's permission, share and discuss the Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) with child care providers.

### **Discuss with family members how they would like to involve their child care provider in Early Intervention.**

## Ways to Involve Child Care Providers

### **During Evaluation and Assessment**

Child Care Providers can provide valuable information about the child's skills and behaviors during their care.

### **During Plan Development**

CCPs can provide information about daily routines, child preferences, and challenges in the childcare setting.

### **Throughout Early Intervention**

CCPs can utilize and help to modify strategies to support a child's development during childcare routines & activities.



*"It's a collaborative, team effort. We are all there for the best interest of the child and we all want to see the child succeed, so the more we stay on the same page, the better the outcomes for the child will be."*

*– Early Intervention Provider*

## Other considerations

- Value child care providers as important members of the team.
- Respect their authority in their programs and classrooms.
- Recognize the multiple responsibilities of child care providers and be flexible in your planning.
- Take time to observe the program in order to make relevant, meaningful and functional suggestions for strategies.
- Build a time for collaboration with the child care provider into the visits.
- Establish a communication system (e.g., phone, text, email).
- Schedule visits when family members can be present or discuss how information will be shared with the family.
- Provide resources for child care providers on relevant topics.

## During an Early Intervention visit

- Early Intervention takes place during naturally occurring activities and routines in the classroom. There is no need to remove the child from the classroom or activity for early intervention visits. Prepare for the visit by considering where the child is succeeding and where there are still challenges.
- Model and explain strategies that foster the child's development and allow time for the child care provider to practice these strategies with the child. Answer questions and provide resources when needed.
- Parents should participate in each early intervention visit, whenever possible. However, when parents are unable to attend, leave a note about the visit for the parents to read. Talk with families about the strategies and their child's response to the strategies.

## Where to get more information



South Dakota Birth to Three  
800 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD 57501  
605-773-3678, 800-305-3064  
<http://www.doe.sd.gov/oess/Birthto3.aspx>  
Check out the provider tab on our Birth to Three website!